

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for remotely controlling at least one electronic device having a communication interface in a local operating environment,
5 comprising:

a processor;

a translation engine operatively coupled to the processor for converting at least one of data, communications from RF devices or
10 data protocols for transmitting/receiving data to the at least one electronic device;

memory operatively coupled to the processor;

a database operatively coupled to the processor for storing centralized status data
15 of the at least one electronic device; and

a display for providing an indication of the status of the at least one electronic device.
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2. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a firewall operatively coupled to the processor for protecting the at least one
25 electronic device from external access by unauthorized devices.

3. The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the display includes a touch screen for inputting
30 commands to the apparatus.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

an interface for receiving and transmitting commands from the apparatus to the communication interface of the at least one electronic device.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one memory card.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the at least one memory card comprises at least one MMS card or at least one SIM card.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is connected to a communication network.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the communication network is the Internet.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a data collection server.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the communication interface is a WiFi device.

11. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the communication interface is a WiFi device.

12. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the interface comprises at least an infra red interface, an RF interface, and a WiFi interface.

13. A system for remotely controlling at least one electronic device in a local operating environment,
5 comprising:

a data collection device for forwarding commands over a network to the at least one electronic device;

10 a least one component, interactively coupled to the system via an internal interface or a LAN which is connected to the network;

an external display unit connected to the network for remotely controlling the portable data collection device upon accessing the
15 system;

an authentication device for providing remote access to the system; and

20 a third party device connected to the network for continuously monitoring the system.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the portable data collection device comprises a processor; a translation engine operatively coupled to the processor
25 for converting at least one of data, communications from RF devices or data protocols for transmitting/receiving data to the at least one electronic device; memory operatively coupled to the processor; a database operatively coupled to the processor for storing
30 centralized status data of the at least one electronic device; and a display for providing an indication of the status of the at least one electronic device.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the authentication device includes at least one of a SIM card, a Bluetooth interface or a RF interface.

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16. The system of claim 15, wherein the authentication device accesses the data collection device via at least one of the Bluetooth interface or a RF interface to remotely access the system.

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17. The system of claim 16, wherein upon accessing the data collection device via the Bluetooth interface a connection to the display unit occurs.

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18. The system of claim 16, wherein the authentication device directly accesses the data collection device via the RF interface.

19. The system of claim 13, wherein the authentication device is a wireless device.

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20. The system of claim 19, wherein the wireless device is a cell phone or a wireless enabled personal digital assistant.

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21. The system of claim 13, wherein the network includes a .NET network connected to the Internet.

22. The system of claim 13, wherein the third party device is at least one of a personal digital assistant, a personal computer or a cell phone.

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23. The system of claim 13, wherein the at least one electronic device is a home alarm system, a digital video recorder, a personal computer, a cable modem, a camera, a PBX system and corresponding phones, and home appliances.

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24. The system of claim 23, wherein the home appliances are at least one of a refrigerator, or an oven.

25. The system of claim 13, wherein the internal interface is a WiFi device.

26. The system of claim 13, wherein the third party device is at least one of a personal digital assistant, a personal computer or a cell phone.

27. A method for remotely controlling at least one electronic device having a communication interface in a local operating environment, comprising:

forwarding at least one of data, communications from RF devices or data protocols for transmitting/receiving data to a translation engine operatively coupled to a processor;

converting the forwarded at least one of data, communications, data protocols in the translation engine;

storing centralized status data of the at least one electronic device in at least one of a memory and a database based on the converted data; and

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providing a status indication of the at least one electronic device on a display of a data collection device based on the stored centralized data.

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28. The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of:

protecting the at least one electronic device from external access by unauthorized devices via a firewall which is operatively coupled to the processor.

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29. The method of claim 27, wherein the display includes a touch screen for inputting commands to the data collection device.

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30. The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of:

receiving and transmitting commands from the data collection device to the communication interface of the at least one electronic device via an interface of the data collection device.

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31. The method of claim 1, wherein said forwarding step comprises at least one of connecting the data collection device to a communications network or receiving data via the communication interface.

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32. The method of claim 31, wherein the communication network is the Internet.

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33. The method of claim 27, wherein the data collection device is a server.

34. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the communication interface is a WiFi device.

35. The method of claim 31, wherein the communication interface is a WiFi device.

36. The method of claim 4, wherein the interface of the data collection device comprises at least an infrared interface, an RF interface, and a WiFi interface.

37. A method for remotely controlling electronic at least one electronic device in a local operating environment, comprising the steps of:

forwarding commands over a network from a data collection device to the at least one electronic device;

receiving the forwarded commands in at least one electronic device interactively coupled to the system via an internal interface or a LAN which is connected to the network;

controlling the data collection device upon accessing the system using an external display unit connected to the network;

remotely accessing the at least one device upon receiving authorization by an authentication device;

continuously monitoring the system via a third party device connected to the network.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the data collection device comprises a processor; a translation engine operatively coupled to the processor for converting at least one of data, communications from RF devices or data protocols for transmitting/receiving data to the data collection device; memory operatively coupled to the processor; a database operatively coupled to the processor for storing centralized status data of the at least one device; and a display for providing an indication of the status of the at least one electronic device.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein the authentication device includes at least one of a SIM card, a Bluetooth interface or a RF interface.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein the authentication device accesses the data collection device via at least one of the Bluetooth interface or a RF interface to remotely access the system.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein upon accessing the data collection device via the Bluetooth interface a connection to the display unit occurs.

42. The method of claim 40, wherein the authentication device directly accesses the data collection device via the RF interface.

43. The method of claim 37, wherein the authentication device is a wireless device.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein the wireless device is a cell phone or a wireless enabled personal digital assistant.

5 45. The method of claim 37, wherein the third party device is at least one of a personal digital assistant, a personal computer or a cell phone.

10 46. The method of claim 37, wherein the at least one electronic device is a home alarm system, a digital video recorder, a personal computer, a cable modem, a camera, a PBX system and corresponding phones, and home appliances.

15 47. The method of claim 46, wherein the home appliances are at least one of a refrigerator, or an oven.

20 48. The method of claim 37, wherein the internal interface is a WiFi device.

25 49. The method of claim 37, wherein the third party device is at least one of a personal digital assistant, a personal computer or a cell phone.